LPG Distribution System in Assam

414. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agencies entrusted with the work of LPG distribution in Assam;

(b) the number of LPG issued to them for distribution;

(c) the district-wise number of additional connections provided by them during the last five years; and

(d) the details of the new connections and new agencies to be sanctioned in each district of the State during the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As on 1.10.1998, there were 144 LPG dealerships in Assam with 4.90 lakhs customer population.

(c) During the last 5 years i.e. 93-94 to 97-98, 1,95,841 connections were released in Assam.

(d) 69 LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG marketing plan 1996—98 and supplementary marketing plan 1996—98 for Assam. Government has recently announced clearing of entire waiting list in the hilly areas including Assam. LPG connections are planned to be released across the counter on demand from 1.4.1999 onwards in Assam.

Oil Exploration by Private Agencies

415. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to offer about 48 oil exploration blocks for bidding by private bidders:

(b) if so, the number of these blocks situated in Gujarat, Maharashtra and other States; and

(c) what is the estimated reserve of oil & gas available in these blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy; 48 exploration blocks have been offered for bidding to both private sector and public sector companies on terms that provide a level playing field to investors.

(b) The exploration blocks include 10 onland, 26 shallow water offshore and 12 deep water offshore blocks. Of these, 2 blocks are in Gujarat Offshore and 4 blocks in Maharashtra Offshore. The State-wise break-up of the 10 onland blocks is as follows:—

1. Arunachal Pradesh	— 1
2. West Bengal	— 2
3. U.P.	— 3
4. Rajasthan	— 4

(c) The reserves can be estimated only after discovery of oil and gas is made.

Drilling by ONGC in West Bengal

416. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) number of wells drilled by ONGC so far in West Bengal (Off-Shore and On-Shore);

(b) number of wells where drilling could not be completed satisfactorily in totality specifying such wells alongwith the reasons for abandoning the same;

(c) location of the wells which had shown indication of Hydrocarbon during drilling/testing;